



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Van Pyumbroeck et. al.

Serial No.: 10/649,494

Filed: August 27, 2003

For: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR
SPONGE CORING

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence along with any attachments referred to or identified as being attached or enclosed is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail on the date of deposit shown below with sufficient postage and in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

December 8, 2003
Date

Signature

Joseph A. Walkowski
Name (Type/Print)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced patent application on the merits, entry of the amendments as set forth herein is respectfully solicited.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Abstract appear on page 12 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing which begins on page 13 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings appear on page 27 of this paper and include both attached replacement sheets and annotated sheets showing changes.

Remarks begin on page 28 of this paper.

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An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 28 of this paper.